

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated June 10, 2010, and received in this application. Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 have been amended. New claims 14-16 have been added. *These amendments add no new matter.* Support for these amendments may be found variously throughout the Disclosure, including, but not limited to FIGS. 3(a) and 3(b).

Claims 7-16 remain pending in the application. Claims 6-13 are rejected as noted below. In light of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. § 103(a) rejection of claims 6-13.

Claims 6-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0031658 to Ozaki et al. ("Ozaki") in view of U.S. Pat. Publication No. 2003/0016313 to Jeong ("Jeong"). This rejection is traversed.

Ozaki teaches a game machine that has a back side display unit composed of reels for displaying back patterns and a front side display unit composed of transparent EL panels for displaying overlapping patterns overlapping with the back patterns. The back side display unit and the front side display unit are disposed not to produce blind spot regions of the back patterns. The game machine can provide various overlapping patterns with good visibility and a high game selection capability to a player.

Jeong discloses a liquid crystal display (LCD) device in which a movement of a light guide plate received in a mold frame can be minimized. A light guide plate has catching jaws and projections. The catching jaws are formed by cutting at least one corner of an end portion of the light guide plate receiving the light from the lamp unit. The projections extend outwardly from sidewalls of the

catching jaws, which respectively have a thinner thickness than the catching jaws. A mold frame receives the light guide plate and the lamp unit and has catching bosses and recesses. The catching bosses are formed at positions corresponding to the catching jaws on a bottom surface of the mold frame to engage with the catching jaws to fix the light guide plate in the mold frame. The recesses are formed at respective positions corresponding to the projections at sidewalls of the mold frame to receive the projections. Therefore, even if an exterior impact is applied to the LCD device, the catching bosses of the mold frame are respectively and rigidly engaged with the catching jaws to prevent the light guide plate from moving towards the lamp. Even though the exterior impact is applied to sidewalls of the mold frame, the projections and the catching jaws can be prevented from being damaged because the projections are respectively received in the recesses of the mold frame.

Amended claim 8 now recites:

A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device for variably displaying symbols associated with an award; and

a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, wherein:

the front display device includes:

a liquid crystal panel through which the variable display device can be seen;

a light guiding plate disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the variable display device, the light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal panel;

a rear holder disposed between the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the rear holder functioning as a reflection plate for reflecting the light on the liquid crystal panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate, the rear holder having a predetermined thickness in order to hold the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate from a rear side thereof;

the rear holder is provided with an opening in an area at which the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device are displayed through the liquid crystal panel;

a peripheral corner portion in a rear side in a thickness direction of the opening

formed in the holder is removed therefrom, and

the removed portion of the peripheral corner portion is prevented from being viewed by the player when a player observes the variable display device behind the electrical display panel through the reel display window unit.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 8 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a peripheral corner portion in a rear side in a thickness direction of the opening formed in the holder is removed therefrom. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach or suggest that the removed portion of the peripheral corner portion is prevented from being viewed by the player when a player observes the variable display device behind the electrical display panel through the reel display window unit. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 9-11 and 13 depend from claim 8 and include all of the features of claim 8. Thus, we propose to argue that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 8 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 6 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Claims 7 and 12 now depend from new claim 14, discussed below.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. New Claims 14-16

New claims 14-16 have been added and include features not shown in the applied art. For instance, claim 14 recites that the holder has a front facial surface and an opposing rear facial surface defining a thickness therebetween with an opening formed therethrough in a thickness direction, the holder has an outer peripheral surface disposed apart from, extending about and surrounding the opening, a front inner peripheral surface extending from the front facial surface and partially towards the rear facial surface in the thickness direction to terminate in a front inner peripheral edge to define a front opening portion of the opening and a rear inner peripheral surface extending from the rear facial surface and partially towards the front facial surface in the thickness direction to terminate in a rear inner peripheral edge to define a rear opening portion of the opening, the rear inner peripheral edge is disposed apart from the front inner peripheral edge to form an interior wall extending from the front inner peripheral edge to the rear inner peripheral edge, peripherally about the front opening portion and outwardly towards the outer peripheral surface to define a stepped-down recess extending from the rear facial surface and partially into the holder and the opening is rectangular and smaller than the reel display window unit.

Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14 and includes all of the features of claim 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 14 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicant asserts that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant hereby reserves the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims,

including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

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Respectfully submitted,

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